

After-Action Report
October 22, 1999 Oil Spill

USS BRIDGE
Spartina Removal and Beach Clean-up

Presented to: Washington State
Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by: Navy Region Northwest
Naval On-Scene Coordinator

SPARTINA REMOVAL PROJECT

1) Location of Project:

Naval Magazine, Indian Island (formerly Naval Ordnance Center, Seal Beach, Detachment Port Hadlock) is located on Indian Island, near Port Hadlock, WA. The Navy facility encompasses the entire island and is used as an on-load/off-load point for Navy ordnance.

2) Description of Completed Project:

On August 30, 2000, approximately 90 crew members from the USS BRIDGE removed the weed known as Spartina from 8-10 acres of Spartina-occupied marshland on Indian Island near Boggy Spit. The plants were dug up with roots attached and taken from the beach by wheelbarrow where they were loaded onto a 1-ton flatbed truck and driven to upland woods, dumped and left to decompose, well uphill from any wetland, to prevent future infestation. Approximately 1/2 ton of weeds were removed from the spit. General beach clean-up was also performed by the crew. Naval Magazine, Indian Island, assisted in the logistics and the proper disposal of the plant material removed from the marshlands.

3) Describe briefly how this project benefits resources potentially effected by oil spills:

The eradication of Spartina has already long been recognized by the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources as an important effort. Spartina is a very invasive, non-indigenous weed that is choking marshlands and critical habitat. Boggy Spit, the target beach for the project, is located at the mouth to Kilisut Bay which is a high tidal energy area. This passageway is also where many commercial as well as private vessels transit, and the location of many shellfish beds. The infestation of Spartina, which is nearly non-existent in this area at this time, would be devastating to both private use and the commercial enterprises located within the bay. Removal of the weeds prior to fall seeding prevents the seeds from being washed into the bay and affecting these public and private lands.

4) Objectives of this project were met.

After the crew finished, the area was inspected by representatives of the Naval Magazine, Indian Island, and Navy Region Northwest to insure that all visible Spartina clumps in the project area had been removed. The project was deemed a success, and the Spartina was removed at a critical point in the season. Spartina weed goes to seed in the fall, and the success of this project prevents further infestation by preventing spread of

new seed. This, and other critical aspects involved with Spartina removal, were coordinated with the Spartina Project Manager at the Washington Department of Agriculture.

5) Duration and success of this project:

Due to the large number of crew members participating and their enthusiasm for the project, the identified areas were successfully completed by early afternoon of the project day.

Photographs are included for your review.